

BRITISH LITERATURE LECTURE NOTES

MODERN PERIOD



The **Modern Period** was the **second** half of the Age of Reform in England
 Age of Reform - 1832 to present

- ❖ Victorian Period - 1832 - 1914
 - From the passage of the First Reform Bill in England – expanded voting privileges beyond the noble class
 - To the start of World War One
- ❖ Modern Period - 1914 - present
 - From the start of World War One to the present

1832	1914				present	
Age of Reform	→					
<i>English Literature</i>	Victorian Period →			Modern Period →		
<i>English History</i>	Queen Victoria 1837 - 1901	Edward VII 1901-1910	George V 1910-1936	Edward VIII 1936	George VI 1936-1952	Elizabeth 1952-present

England's in the Modern Era

1. After WW I and WW II, England became a second class power and her empire disappeared
2. Socialism was growing in England led by the Fabian Socialists who believed in transforming society toward Socialism without revolution
3. **Spiritual Collapse**
 "England – the birthplace of modern missions – is now herself a mission, one of the most difficult in the world"

4. Economic Collapse

This goes hand in hand with the rise of Socialism and the growth of government
 MASSIVE Government regulations stifle free enterprise and keep businesses from being successful

GEORGE V ruled England 1910-1936

- ❖ Ruled during World War One



EDWARD VIII ruled England 1936

- ❖ Socialite Playboy type who **abdicated** the throne in order to marry an American divorcee Wallis Simpson
- ❖ Did not follow through on his duty to his country



GEORGE VI ruled England 1936 - 1952

- ❖ The second son of George V who stepped up to the plate when his older brother abdicated
- ❖ He inspired the British people during World war II and worked closely with Winston Churchill
- ❖ His personal story has been popularized by the play and movie – **The King's Speech**
- ❖ His wife Elizabeth – the Queen Mum – died in 2002 at the age of 101!!! :-D



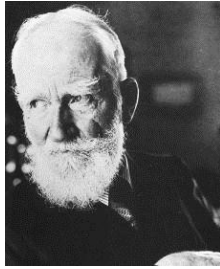
QUEEN ELIZABETH II ruled England since 1952

- ❖ She is about to have her Diamond Jubilee this summer marking 60 years on the throne
- ❖ Only Queen Victoria has reigned longer
- ❖ There have been 12 US Presidents during her reign: Harry Truman (1945-1953), Dwight Eisenhower (1953-61), John Kennedy (1961-63), Lyndon Johnson (1963-69), Richard Nixon (1969-74), Gerald Ford, (1974-77), James Carter (1977-81), Ronald Reagan (1981-89), George Bush (1989-93), William Clinton (1993-2001), George W Bush (2001-09), Barack Obama, (2009-present).

This Chapter's Authors

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

- Pygmalion*
Fabian Essays in Socialism
An Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism
- ❖ Leader of Fabian Socialists
 - ❖ Only person to be awarded both a Nobel Prize for Literature and an Oscar

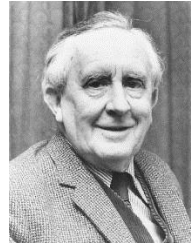


GEORGE ORWELL

- Animal Farm*
Nineteen Eighty-Four
- ❖ Real Name: Eric Arthur Blair
 - ❖ Writer of **Dystopian Literature** – futuristic view of state-controlled society characterized by hopelessness and lack of individual freedom

C. S. LEWIS

- Screwtape Letters* / *The Chronicles of Narnia*
The Space Trilogy / *Til We Have Faces*
Mere Christianity / *Surprised by Joy*
- ❖ A Christian writer of the Modern Era!
 - ❖ Professor at Magdalen College of Oxford University for 30 years
 - ❖ Part of the literary group – **The Inklings** – which met at the Eagle and Child Pub in Oxford
 - ❖ Good friend of J. R. R. Tolkien

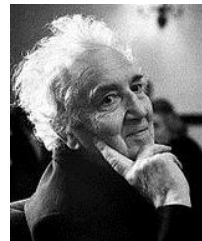


J.R.R. TOLKIEN

- The Hobbit* / *Lord of the Rings*
- ❖ A Christian writer of the Modern Era!
 - ❖ Professor at Pembroke College of Oxford University and the Merton College
 - ❖ Part of the literary group – **The Inklings** – which met at the Eagle and Child Pub in Oxford
 - ❖ Good friend of C. S. Lewis
 - ❖ Appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth in 1972

WINSTON CHURCHILL

- A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*
The Second World War (in six volumes)
- Inspirational Speeches during World War 2 such as:**
- 1 - *Blood, Toil, Tears, & Sweat*
 - 2 - *This Was Their Finest Hour*
 - 3 - *We Shall Fight on the Beaches*
- ❖ Prime Minister of England during World War 2
 - ❖ Descended from the Marlborough noble family
 - ❖ Awarded Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953



ROBERT GRAVES

- Coronation Address*
A trilogy of Roman historical fiction:
- ❖ *I, Claudius*
 - ❖ *Claudius the God*
 - ❖ *Count Belisarius*

JAMES JOYCE

- The Dubliners*
Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man
Ulysses
- ❖ Known for **Stream of Consciousness** technique
 - ❖ Exemplifies hopelessness of modern perspective



VIRGINIA WOOLF

- Mrs. Dalloway*
To the Lighthouse
- ❖ Known for **Stream of Consciousness** technique
 - ❖ Emphasized opposition to religious and moral standards of Victorianism
 - ❖ She ended her life by drowning

G. K. CHESTERTON

- The Everlasting Man* / *St. Francis of Assisi*
Father Brown detective stories
The Man Who Was Thursday
Charles Dickens: A Critical Study
Eugenics and Other Evils
- ❖ A Christian Writer of Modern Era!
 - ❖ His works contributed to the conversion of C. S. Lewis
 - ❖ The GK Chesterton Society is an international organization that builds appreciation for his genius



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

- The Lost World*
Sherlock Holmes Books
- ❖ Ophthalmologist turned writer
 - ❖ Personally investigated two real cases that led to both men being exonerated of the crimes of which they were accused!